



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE **108th** CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 149

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2003

No. 38

Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Let us pray: Gracious God, You only ask from us what You generously offer to give to us. You initiate this conversation we call prayer because You want to bless us with exactly what we will need to live faithful, confident, productive, joyous lives today. You are for us; not against us. Help us to live the hours of today knowing You are beside, are on our side, and offer us unlimited strength and courage besides. You will provide us insight and inspiration to confront and solve the problems we face. You will give us peace when our hearts are distressed by the turbulence of our times. You will comfort us when we are afraid and need Your peace. You make us overcomers when we feel overwhelmed. In response we relinquish our imagined control over people and circumstances. We thank You for the power of Your wisdom we feel surging into our minds and hearts. We trust in You, dear God, for You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we will once again resume consideration of the nomination of Miguel Estrada to be a circuit judge for the DC Circuit. Senator HATCH will be here to continue to discuss the merits of this well-qualified nominee and our hope is for an up-or-down vote.

Under the order of last week, at 5 p.m. the Senate will proceed to the consideration of calendar No. 19, S. 3, the partial-birth abortion ban bill, with the time until 6 p.m. equally divided for debate. I understand that Senator MURRAY will be here to offer an amendment to that legislation, and thus I encourage Members who would like to debate that amendment to remain after the scheduled 6 p.m. vote this evening.

The rollcall vote will be on the nomination of Gregory Frost to be a U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

For the remainder of the week, we will continue consideration of the partial-birth abortion bill and should complete action of that bill this week.

In addition, on Tuesday, tomorrow, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 we will consider the Estrada nomination for the purpose of discussion regarding the Senate's constitutional role of advise and consent. I encourage all Members to be present to participate in this institutional debate.

Rollcall votes will occur each day this week as we attempt to complete the items mentioned.

I thank all Members.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to direct a question through you to the majority leader. Tomorrow from 11 to 12:30, is that going to be equally divided?

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the intention is to be equally divided. I would like it to be back and forth, if we can do that.

Let me take this opportunity to say that the purpose is because we are all running around doing so many different things over the course of the day. I ask my Senate colleagues to pay attention to what I am about to say because the purpose is to bring as many people to the floor to listen and discuss and debate what the Constitution says and our interpretation of the Constitution at an elevated level. That is the purpose in setting aside that time from 11 to 12:30.

Time should be equally divided, and look for some outstanding discussion on what is a very important principle in our Constitution.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. AL-LARD). Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MIGUEL A. ESTRADA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will go into executive session and resume consideration of the executive calendar No. 21, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Miguel A. Estrada, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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